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BULLETIN
of the
Cooper Ornithological Club
OF CALIFORNIA.

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Write plainly and confine your article to one side of the
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This issue of the Bulletin was mailed Sep. 15.
EDITORIAL NOTES.

With this issue the BULLETIN publishes Mr. W. W. Price's list of the winter birds of the Lower Colorado Valley which is the first of numerous valuable lists to appear in its columns from time to time. Local lists, those covering defined areas which are subject to certain peculiar climatic conditions, as well as lists which represent the ornithology of certain mountainous districts or rivers, all have a value, that of a purely local list being of relatively less value than one covering a generally known region of interest. The value of a list is enhanced in a measure by its topographical preface which should and usually does precede the list proper, thus giving the reader a perfect idea of the environments in which the birds noted are found, and from which much may be learned of the preferences of individual bird species for certain faunal areas.

A list of any section of unusual interest once recorded becomes a basis for future workers in the same region and there remain many areas in California from which thorough lists would be of value to present and future bird students. Each member of the Club should work up as complete a list as possible of his county, to which he may add from year to year, always finding in the extension of his list an incentive to hunt out and add new records as time permits him to go afield.

Contributions which have appeared in the BULLETIN for 1899, with very few exceptions, have been from members of the Cooper Club. All articles appearing in the BULLETIN constitute, in a sense, the proceedings of the Club, and papers which are indicated as having been read before a meeting of either Division do not of necessity bear any distinction over those which are printed without the usual presentation before the Club. The transactions of the Club are formally presented to a majority of its members for the first time through the BULLETIN and whether or not a paper is given a formal reading depends largely upon the date of its receipt. Thus all contributions are placed on an equal footing in-so-far as their status as a part of the "proceedings" of the Club is concerned.

Our modest though wide-awake contemporary, the *Oologist*, has introduced a pleasing, valuable and interesting feature in its June-July number in the form of a complete bibliography of the ornithological articles appearing in current North American scientific journals. Thus at a glance, one may know just what has been published from the titles of the articles, and by a simple index the magazine in which the article was printed is indicated. This department of the *Oologist* will prove a satisfaction to all ornithological workers, who will also appreciate a recent photograph of Mr. Lattin appearing as frontispiece in the same issue.

In the *Auk* for July, 1899, appears a brief, sensible discourse in which is shown the fallacy of the argument recently introduced by various writers in attempting to mitigate the sentiment which has attached to the needless killing of birds by bringing up the proposition that it is just as cruel to kill domestic fowls. The writer shows that in the case of the domestic fowl it is within the province of man, and to his interests, to keep even the ratio of supply to those destroyed. With the birds, man's agency is simply to kill, without the means or ability to restore.

With the next and last number of the year we shall print a complete list of the members of the Club, together with their current addresses. By the way, non-subscribers will observe that the BULLETIN is nearing its first mile stone, having appeared promptly on or before the fifteenth of each publishing month, and those who wish the file complete will do well to order while it is possible to secure the back numbers. The BULLETIN aims to present the latest and freshest bird news, a point on which we invite comparison.

What has become of the Life History Committee of the Southern Division and the excellent plan of work upon which it commenced?

A charming paper by Mr. A. W. Anthony entitled "A Night at Sea" will be one of the features of our November number.